WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Medical facility to freedom fighters

*465. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to provide free medical facilities to the Freedom Fighters;

(b) whether the proposed medical facilities are the same as those being provided to the Central Government employees under the C.G.H.S.; and

(c) if not, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Hospital facilities available in Central Government hospitals under the control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been extended to the Freedom Fighters w.e.f 24th July, 1986. These facilities include consultation, investigation, hospitalisation and free supply of medicines.

(b) and (c) Under the Central Government Health Scheme the beneficiaries, who are mainly Central Government employees are entitled for treatment in dispensaries, hospitals, domiciliary visits, laboratory investigations, supply of medicines and hospitalisation when necessary. The Central Government Health Scheme is mainly intended to provide medical facilities to Central Government employees and their families through a network of dispensaries which covers 15 cities only. The available facilities under the Central Government Health Scheme are not adequate to cater to the demands of the entitled categories.

Apex body on higher education

*466 SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to form an apex body on higher education at the National level;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including its comopsition and functions; and

(c) by when, it is likely to be constituted and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The National Policy on Education—1986 envisages that in the interest of greater coordination and consistency in policy, sharing of facilities and developing interdisciplinary research, a national body covering higher education in general, agricultural, medical, technical, legal and other professional fields will be set up.

(b) and (c) Details relating to the establishment of this body including its composition, functions, etc., have not yet been finalised.

Manufacture of coaches in the Railway Coach Factory at Kapurthala

*467. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Coach Factory set up recently in Kapurthala in Punjab has started production and if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the annual capacity of production at the Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala;

(c) whether the coaches manufactured in this factory will be of new type; and

(d) whether high speed coaches will also be manufactured in the said factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The factory when complete will have an annual capacity for production of 1000 coaches.